



General Assembly

## ***Amendment***

***February Session, 2016***

**LCO No. 4544**



Offered by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. DUFF, 25<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. COLEMAN, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. DOYLE, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. GERRATANA, 6<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KENNEDY, 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. FASANO, 34<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. **228**

File No. 372

Cal. No. 259

***"AN ACT CONCERNING DAMAGES FOR THE UNLAWFUL  
KILLING OR INJURING OF A COMPANION ANIMAL AND  
REQUIRING A REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE CONCERNING THE TETHERING OF DOGS."***

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 22-351a of the general statutes is  
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
5 *1, 2016*):

6 (b) Any person who intentionally kills or injures a companion  
7 animal, except in defense of such person or another person or as  
8 otherwise authorized by law, shall be liable to the owner of such  
9 companion animal for economic damages sustained by such owner  
10 including, but not limited to, expenses of veterinary care, the fair  
11 monetary value of the companion animal and burial expenses for the

12 companion animal. Additionally, the court may award damages, not to  
13 exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars, to the owner of such  
14 companion animal for the loss of companionship of such animal upon  
15 receipt of evidence concerning the length of ownership of such animal,  
16 the use of such animal for companionship purposes and the  
17 disposition or temperament of such companion animal.

18 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2017, the  
19 Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the Chief Animal  
20 Control Officer and in accordance with section 11-4a of the general  
21 statutes, shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the  
22 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to domestic  
23 animals concerning the adequacy of the provisions of section 22-350a  
24 of the general statutes in protecting the health and welfare of tethered  
25 or confined dogs in this state. Such report shall include, but not be  
26 limited to, an analysis on the need to amend said section to include a  
27 requirement that any tethered dog have access to adequate shelter, a  
28 description of the components of any such adequate shelter  
29 requirement and any recommendations concerning restrictions on the  
30 duration for tethering or confining a dog in compliance with said  
31 section.

32 Sec. 3. Section 3 of public act 14-205 is repealed and the following is  
33 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

34 (a) There is established a task force to study the humane treatment  
35 of animals in municipal and regional shelters and other matters  
36 concerning the operation of such municipal and regional shelters. The  
37 task force shall consider: (1) Recommendations for the establishment of  
38 standards for the humane treatment of animals in such shelters; (2)  
39 existing education and training standards for animal control officers  
40 on current license laws; (3) rules and regulations regarding and  
41 penalties for abuse; (4) the development of a system to track persons  
42 who have been convicted of animal abuse in order to prevent such  
43 persons from acquiring animals from shelters in other municipalities  
44 or states; (5) the establishment of standards for such shelters to use

45 when evaluating potential adopters for such animals; (6) the  
46 establishment of rules and responsibilities for volunteer groups that  
47 work with such shelters and animal control officers; and (7) the  
48 creation of a framework to coordinate the efforts of local humane  
49 organizations with volunteer groups, foster groups and municipal and  
50 regional animal shelters.

51 (b) In addition to the Commissioner of Agriculture or the  
52 commissioner's designee, the task force shall consist of the following  
53 members:

54 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
55 one of whom shall be a member of a local animal welfare advocacy  
56 organization and one whom shall be a sworn officer of a municipal  
57 police department;

58 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
59 of whom shall be an animal control officer and one who shall be a  
60 representative of the judicial branch;

61 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
62 Representatives, who shall be a chief elected official from a town with  
63 a population of more than twenty-five thousand persons;

64 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
65 a licensed veterinarian;

66 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
67 Representatives, who shall be a person who volunteers to work with  
68 municipal animal shelters and animal control officers; and

69 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
70 a chief elected official from a town with a population of twenty-five  
71 thousand persons or less.

72 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
73 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
74 of the General Assembly.

75 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than  
 76 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
 77 filled by the appointing authority.

78 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
 79 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force  
 80 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall  
 81 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not  
 82 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

83 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
 84 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to local  
 85 governments shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

86 (g) Not later than January 1, [2015] 2018, the task force shall submit  
 87 a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
 88 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 89 relating to local governments and the environment, in accordance with  
 90 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force  
 91 shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1,  
 92 [2015] 2018, whichever is later.

93 Sec. 4. Special act 15-19 is repealed. (*effective from passage*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	22-351a(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	PA 14-205, Sec. 3